

*Application No. 10/583,966*  
*Amendment dated July 8, 2008*  
*Reply to Office Action of April 9, 2008*

*Docket No. 0649-1323PUS1*  
*Art Unit: 3679*  
*Page 9 of 17*

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Four sheets of Replacement Drawings are attached at the end of this Reply in order to label elements illustrated in original FIG. 4, and to label each of FIGS. 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, and 10 as PRIOR ART.

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### **REMARKS**

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 2, and 4-8 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 are amended, and claim 6-8 are added. Claims 1 and 8 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

### **Examiner Interview**

If, during further examination of the present application, a discussion with the Applicants' Representative would advance the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Carl T. Thomsen, Registration No. 50,786, at 1-703-208-4030 (direct line) at his convenience.

### **Objection to the Drawings**

In response the to Examiner's objection to the drawings, three sheets of Replacement Drawings are attached at the end of this Reply in order to label elements illustrated in original FIG. 4, and to label each of FIGS. 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, and 10 as PRIOR ART. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

### **Claim for Priority**

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-425960.

**Information Disclosure Citation**

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the reference supplied with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on September 21, 2006 and February 5, 2008, and for providing the Applicants with initialed copies of the PTO forms filed therewith.

Applicants Letter dated July 6, 2007 submitted a Korean Office Action in which JP 11-201355 was cited. As indicated in the Letter of July 6, 2007, a copy of JP 11-201355 was not submitted with this, since a copy of JP 11-201355 had been previously filed with the IDS dated September 21, 2006. Therefore, it is believed that no further action is required on the part of Applicants.

**Objection to the Specification**

In response to the Examiner's objection to the specification, Applicants have revised the Abstract of the Disclosure and have attached a copy on a separate page at the end of this Reply. In addition, page 20 of the Specification has been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0140225). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

**Amendments to Independent Claim 1**

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 has been amended

herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a resin tube-equipped quick connector, including *inter alia*

“the press-fitting portion including first and second annular projections disposed respectively adjacently to first and second root portions along a length L thereof; ...

the resin tube including a press-fit undergoing portion into which the press-fitting portion is to be press-fitted,

wherein before the press-fitting portion is press fitted into the press-fit undergoing portion, the press-fit undergoing portion is formed with an inner diameter that is substantially equal to an outer diameter of the root portions of the press-fitting portion, and

after the press-fitting portion is press-fitted into the press-fit undergoing portion of the resin tube, the press-fit undergoing portion is adapted to cause portions of its inner diameter facing the root portions to become equal to the outer diameter of the root portions, so that the press-fit undergoing portion is integrated with the press-fitting portion in a withdrawal-preventing condition”.

Support for the novel features of claim 1 as amended, can be found, for example, on page 20 and in FIG. 4 of the original application.

By contrast, Nishiyama et al. fail to disclose any comparative structural relationship between the inner diameter of hose 4 and the insert portion 6. As can be seen in Nishiyama et al. paragraph [0031], this document merely discloses an inner diameter of the hose as being 4 to 50 mm.

At least for the reasons explained above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Nishiyama et al.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

**Added Independent Claim 8**

Independent claim 8 has been added to recite a combination of elements directed to a resin tube-equipped quick connector, including *inter alia*

“a press-fit undergoing portion of the resin tube into which the press-fitting portion is to be press-fitted has an inner diameter that is expanded prior to press-fitting, and the press-fit undergoing portion is press-fitted in the tube diameter-expanded press-fit undergoing portion to be integrated therewith in a withdrawal-preventing condition,

wherein the press-fit undergoing portion of the resin tube has a predetermined length L extending lengthwise along the resin tube from a distal end of resin tube, and the inner diameter of the press-fit undergoing portion is expanded by a uniform amount along length L thereof”.

Accordingly, the sealing effect at the distal end of the resin tube is improved.

The Applicants submit that, a novel feature of the claimed invention is to be expand beforehand the press-fit undergoing portion of the resin tube, and to press-fit the press-fitting portion of the connector body into the expanded press-fitted portion of the resin tube in a withdrawal-preventing condition. Please see page 11, lines 5 to 15 and Figs. 3 and 4. According thereto, in the claimed invention, even the small-diameter tube can be easily

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connected to the mating pope with a one-touch operation. Further, the withdrawal prevention and the sealing are both effected merely by press-fitting the press-fitting portion with the annular projections into the press-fit undergoing portion of the resin tube.

At least for the reasons explained above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 8 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Nishiyama et al.

Therefore, independent claim 8 is in condition for allowance.

### **Dependent Claims**

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2, 4, and 5 have been amended to place them in better form, and dependent claims 6 and 7 have been added to set forth additional novel features of the present invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

For example, dependent claim 6 has been added to recite

“wherein the press-fitting portion includes a length extending from an opening at a tip end thereof, and along length L starting at the tip end, the press-fitting portion is provided with the following portions, one immediately after another:

an first truncated-conical-shaped portion,

a cylindrical-shaped root portion,

one or more truncated-conical-shaped annular projections each followed by a root portion, and

a second truncated-conical-shaped portion, which ends abutting with the connector body”.

By contrast, as can be seen in Nishiyama et al. FIG. 3, this document discloses a insert portion 6 with a configuration different from that of the present invention.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

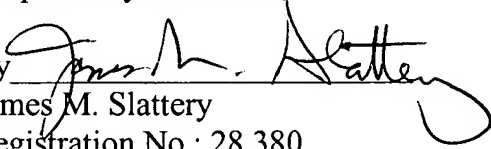
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Revised Abstract of the Disclosure  
Four Sheets of Replacement Drawings (FIGS. 4 and 8A-10)

  
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